

Boston June 12th 1843

Dear Anna,

The result of the long correspondence with the New York friends for the purpose of ascertaining our functions is, that we have sent to J. S. Gibbons for his signature & subsequent publication in the Standard, a statement that we are not the responsible committee, & that the N.Y. friends are. The correspondence amounts to 50 pages at least, & I will copy & send you any portion of it that you wish to see. But perhaps a brief abstract will prove sufficient. We thought we were the ruling class, & not immediately after the return of the friends from N.Y. - laid great executive & financial plans appointed the men all over the country to carry them out, & were ready to present ourselves to the N.E. Convention as the people, relying greatly upon that meeting for the means of carrying out our plans of a grand campaign. The N.Y. friends were astonished at this action on our part, deeming it ~~unconstitutional~~ - thinking that if the com. of 25 understood it so, which was doubtful, the Society

certainly did not, & finally expressing their
readiness to resign, with the understanding that it was
unconstitutional in us to assume the office & that they
felt as if the appointment of the office agent should
rest with them. They also wished a public statement
to be made in the paper that we were the respon-
sible committee, & seemed to feel as if it was
altogether a new idea, & one that had not been talked
of in the committee, that committee should be
removed to Boston & the Society left at N. York.

We thought that the loss of time & tide - the misap-
prehension & constitutional scruples - & the evidently
wounded feelings on their part, were sufficient
reasons why we should not contest our claim,
(which was, in our opinion, for the conducting of
the whole business, except such as must necessarily
transact in N. York & which rendered it necessary that
the office agent should be a man we knew & who
knew us.) We do not resign in a body, because
if we did, the enemies of the cause would misrepresent
it into a proof of a division of heart, when in fact
there is only a division of opinion. The views of
the N. York friends differ greatly from our

own as to the practical conduct of the cause.

I am very sorry that our views cannot prevail, for I think it important ^{to the cause} that this year should have had our stamp upon it. But we know how to wait, I trust, among the other things which we know, for the leadings of Providence; & I do not think it calls upon us to allow our good to be evil-spoken of by contesting this point with the N.Y. friends, or wounding their feelings by assuming it, when the real advantage of our having it has been lost to the cause by the delay & by their misapprehensions. I wish you could see your way clear to take higher ground upon political action — the ground that lies parallel to coming out of the church. i.e. coming out — not of the parties, but out of the government. The Gov't is pro slavery. Well — can we innocently participate in it, any more than we can in a pro-slavery church? The third party is as guilty as the Whig & Dem in this, & more so in having ^{as} a distinct purpose in the mind of its Eastern & Presidential candidate, to destroy the cause. James G. Birney is a bad man. That is reason enough against the 3^d party.

While the pro-slavery in the government is reason enough
against a 3^d Party. You see how satisfied
the Emancipator is with the action of the Am. Soc.
Brother Foster did not appear to exercise good

Sumner
Brown Black
& Co's
attn
1843.